

HOWARD COUNTY ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2015
Howard County District Court, 2nd Floor Conference Room

IN ATTENDANCE: Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Robert Ehrhardt, Dr. Joe Gagliardi, Tim Madden, Darrell Horney, Sophie Lovering, Joan Webb Scornaienchi, Meghan Skaggs, Linda Zumbrun, Jennifer Van Blarcum, Alicia Feliciano, Carol Robinson, Carl DeLorenzo, Phil Nichols, Heather Moore, Bruce McDonald, Jack Kavanagh, Judge William Tucker, Kassy Hargadon-Zester, Barbara Allen, Tom Allen

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS: The meeting was called to order at 5:26 P.M. Joan welcomed the board and guests and everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The November 18, 2015 Agenda was approved with the addition of Sophie providing an HC DrugFree Teen Advisory Council report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The October 21, 2015 Minutes were approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Carl DeLorenzo and Phil Nichols from the County Executive's Office were in attendance to address the Medicaid Reimbursement/Accreditation issue that is still open from the September meeting. Carl presented his findings and suggested several ways to move forward both locally and at a state level. He gave Roe a packet of information he had found in doing research. It was suggested that Roe, Joan, Jack and Deb meet as a small group again to discuss how to proceed and gain additional information from Carl to provide recommendations for the next meeting.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Roe informed the board that 40+ individuals have been trained/certified at the Overdose Response Program trainings year to date in FY16 by the Health Department. The next Overdose Response Program training is scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2015 at 8:00 A.M. at the Health Department.

Roe informed the board that COMAR 10.63.01 Community Behavioral Health Programs is still pending and open for public comment until November 30, 2015. Roe suggested the board provide comments regarding positive and negative elements of the document. This COMAR, if passed, will require community outpatient programs to become accredited. The accreditation requirement is believed to limit access to care given the fact that many providers may not seek accreditation due to cost and demand on staff.

Roe and Donna Wells with the Howard County Mental Health Authority are working jointly to support providers in working toward applying for CARF accreditation. A work group was established to facilitate information sharing including sharing of policies and procedures and trainings required for accreditation. The work group meets every other Friday morning at the Health Department.

Roe informed the board that the Health Department is continuing to work with the Detention Center referring inmates for Vivitrol injections prior to release from incarceration. The Health Department provides outpatient treatment and additional Vivitrol injections following release.

Roe provided the board a flyer entitled Fair Insurance Coverage: It's the Law. This flyer described the Federal Law prohibiting private health insurance plans from discriminating against individuals from having a mental health disorder or a substance use disorder.

Jurisdictions across Maryland received a memo from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) describing plans to move ambulatory outpatient substance use disorder grant funds to the administrative service agency, Beacon Health Options (formerly known as ValueOptions). This will allow providers to receive reimbursement for services through Beacon Health Options. The effective date is July 1, 2016 (FY17). This raises concerns regarding the ability to sustain adequate access to care since few providers in county are providers registered with Beacon Health Options.

Lastly, Roe and Mr. Kavanagh shared information about a recent K2 (synthetic marijuana) crisis leading to medical emergency situations for several pre-release inmates on the Eastern Shore.

HC DRUGFREE PREVENTION/EDUCATION/OPIOID UPDATE: Update provided by Joan

Sophie reported that 30 students from 10 Howard County high schools attended the November HC DrugFree Teen Advisory Council (TAC) meeting. She shared 2 fliers the teens created at the meeting. HC DrugFree forwarded the fliers to high school staff to share on school websites and in newsletters.

TAC will staff a table at the Teen Opportunities Fair at Ellicott Mills Middle School on November 21. TAC members will play an educational trivia game with other teen attendees.

Sophie also shared that teens created a large Thank You card and are scheduled to present it to the Board of Education on December 3. TAC wants to acknowledge the BOE's commitment to teens by declaring October as Substance Abuse Prevention Month.

Joan reported that the Overdose Fatality Review Team had their first meeting in October and will begin reviewing cases in the spring. Dr. Rossman was elected to serve chair. Marge Rosensweig and Joan will continue co-coordinating.

HC DrugFree will once again have a Category in the upcoming HoCo Student FilmFest. The tentative topic will focus on understanding the importance of not sharing prescription pain medication/opioids.

On December 4, a member of the Howard County Police Department Narcotics Unit and Joan will be speaking to members of Leadership Howard County as part of their *"This Just In"* educational series. Topic: *The New Face of Heroin Addiction*.

Joan attended the annual MD Association of Prevention Professionals Conference held in Ocean City in November. Howard County was praised for our efforts to keep high school seniors safe during Senior Week at the shore. Also, Joan used the opportunity to return to the Ocean City Police headquarters to meet with Cpl. Howard Caplan, the OCPD officer who travels to Howard County each year to conduct the *Senior Week: Staying Safe in OC* program for high school seniors. Typically, approximately 350 high school seniors and their parents/grandparents attend.

Joan attended the annual Governor's Grants Conference at The University of Maryland. The Department of Mental Health and Hygiene provided an update on their grant process. Kathy Rebbert-Franklin,

Deputy Director of Population-based Health at MD BHA, discussed opioid prevention efforts happening in communities across MD. Joan was pleased that efforts mentioned were in line with the prevention work underway or approved in the County's opioid strategic plan.

Joan provided an update on MD's November 6 application deadline for licenses to grow and distribute marijuana. Across the State, 882 applications were received.

The State received 102 applications for marijuana growing centers. The State can authorize up to 15 growing facilities.

The State received 75 requests to open facilities to turn the cannabis into pills, oils, and other medical products. There is no limit to the number of processing facilities the State can approve.

The State received 705 applications to open dispensaries. State law allows up to 2 dispensaries in each senatorial district for a total of 94 statewide. Currently, the State prohibits any single entity from operating more than 1 dispensary. Many applicants applied for more than one senate district.

NEW BUSINESS:

HC DrugFree was asked by the Health Department to provide Tobacco Retailer Training before April 2016.

Election of officers: Nominations were taken from the floor. Only one nomination was put forward for each position. Joan was nominated, seconded and unanimously voted as Chair. Darrell Horney was nominated, seconded and unanimously voted as Vice Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No December meeting. The next ADAAB meeting will be held at 5:15 P.M. on January 20, 2016 in the Executive Conference Room at the Health Department at 8930 Stanford Blvd.

Barbara Allen announced that she is a member of the Governor's Behavioral Health Council and they have an opening for a 19-21 year old in recovery. Meetings are held at Spring Grove in Catonsville. Contact Barbara or email Joan if you have recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.